REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action from the Patent Examiner dated 24 September 2003, Applicant respectfully submits this amendment after final, and remarks. Reconsideration and reevaluation of the objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

At page 2, of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, and 3 through 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. in view of Beck et al. and in further view of Porfano et al., McGahhey and JP 11-100008. The Examiner did note at page 5 of the Office Action that Claims 6 and 8 through 19 were allowed.

With this amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1 wherein there is now a step that states, "forming a plurality of cavity profiles linked together by a plurality of arms by contracting a first slide and a second slide from an extended position to a contracted position." Additionally, Claim 1 was amended so that there is now a step that reads, "heat sealing an open end of the plurality of interconnected vials so that each of the plurality of interconnected vials forms a closed container that encapsulates the liquid." Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not teach the forming of a plurality of cavity profiles linked together by a plurality of arms by contracting a first slide and a second slide from an extended position to a contracted position. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 and 3 though 5 are now in a position for allowance.

Additionally, please note that Claim 6 has been amended to delete the following: "moving said piston so that said first end of." There was no antecedent basis for "said piston." The step, as presently amended, presently reads, "contacting said second member with said

first slide and said second slide." The "opening defined within said first end" was deleted in the preamble. Also, the phrase "from the plurality of core pins" was deleted from the step of ejecting the interconnected vials. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment places Claim 6 in a position for allowance.

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Accordingly, the remaining claims, namely Claims 1, 3 through 6, and 8 through 19 are now in a position for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. If it would aid in disposition of this matter, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned.

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Date

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Respectfully Submitted,

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